(c) and (d) Anti-dumping legislation has been is existence ir existence in almost all countries, including the USA and India. Anti-dumping duties can be imposed by a country against imports based solely on the price aspect. No. duties can be imposed on the basis of quality of the material, method of catch, the types of processing etc.

It is reported that the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) of USA may file an Anti-dumping action against selected shrimp exporting countries, including India, in the USA. However, once the petition is filed, there will be preliminary hearing on the issue. Depending upon the final verdict of the case, duties could be levied. The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) has hired a legal firm in the USA to defend Indian shrimp exporters.

For maintaining high quality in the exports of seafood, various steps have been taken by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). These include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value added products for exports etc. and upgradation of laboratories including the installation of state of art machines for detection of banned antibiotics and heavy metals.

Sub-standard cement

503. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement manufacturing companies have been found manufacturing sub-standard cement and not adhere to the BIS specifications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against such companies;

(d) whether Government have made BIS norms mandatory for cement industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) Under the Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 issued as per Notification dated 17.2.2003, BIS norms have been made mandatory for ensuring the quality of cement manufactured in the country. Further, the Government has not come across any case where it has been established that the cement companies have manufactured sub-standard cement by not adhering to these norms.

Trade Policy

504. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal put forwarded by ASSOCHAM for formulation of National/internal trade policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A background paper was prepared for a public seminar by the ASSOCHAM entitled "India: A Common Economic Market—Need for a national/internal trade policy". The Paper, *inter alia*, discusses measures to promote domestic trade mainly through uniformity of taxes all over the country. The proposal of introducing a uniform, nation-wide value added tax (VAT) is already under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Plots allotted by NOIDA Export Processing Zone

505. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export units which were allotted plots/factory by Noida Export Processing Zone;

(b) the number of units in existence as on the 31st March, 2001 and the number of units which are not functional;

(c) the amount of lease-rent outstanding so far against these units and the number of allotments cancelled; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?